



October 27, 1992

Open letter to Scott Brown, Quinones, Selser and Stiffler:

The front page IR article of Oct. 27th requires an immediate response by all the concerned citizens, not only of East Helena but of the entire area.

While it is a well known fact that we have lived in East Helena all of our lives, raised 4 healthy children in this "terribly polluted environment", and think this entire process is a thinly disguised campaign to destroy ASARCO and its 300 jobs--we have cooperated to make the majority decision as palatable as possible.

Scott Brown and we have had our differences, but he has always tried to be fair in doing a very unpleasant, unpopular job. For our local state and county employees to get into the act to give the final death blow to this local industry is unconscionable. We have requested copies of the "3 letters" Quinones has written and the Oct. 14 letter of Selser. We have been to most of the East Helena Citizens Advisory Committee meetings and have read all the minutes. Selser has never attended a meeting and the only comment we have even heard Quinones make is that "his name was spelled incorrectly". Now we have them coming forward and in effect attempting to mount a campaign to tear up the entire city. Extending what is in excess of a 5-million (yes, million) dollar project, to more like a 50-million dollar project.

Remember this is ALL paid for by ASARCO plus a substantial supervision charge to them by EPA and the State.

All of this without ever showing that even one child or adult has ever been damaged by the lead in the soil of East Helena. The Federal EPA is bad enough and Scott Brown has worked well with the officials of ASARCO to try to comply with a ridiculous law without destroying one of Helena's few industries.

We recommend to everyone the reading of Bill Kramer's recent article "Lead Ban is Replay of Asbestos Scam". We are furnishing a copy to the IR and hope it will be published in full. It states in part "Last October the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the ban (on asbestos). The Court bluntly stated that the agency's own data showed asbestos less harmful than using toothpicks".

Now we have our local bureaucrats trying to get in the act and finish the job. We can do something about them! Lewis & Clark County wake up before it is too late!

Clark & Mary Pyfer
East Helena

